

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## ROMA GP TO HEAD CLINICAL COUNCIL WHICH AIMS TO IMPROVE HEALTH FOR WESTERN QUEENSLANDERS

**KEY APPOINTMENT: Dr Rosie Geraghty takes the reins of a leading health advisory group in Western Queensland.**

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Respected Roma GP Dr Rosie Geraghty has been appointed to a key role in advising how primary health care should be delivered to a population spread across almost one million square kilometres of Western Queensland.

Dr Geraghty was this week announced as the new Chair of the Western Queensland Primary Health Network's Clinical Council, an expert team who advise the Board of the WQPHN and provide clinical insights into the vast and complex landscape of rural and remote health.

"One of the key priorities we have at the Clinical Council, and the Primary Health Network more broadly, is reducing the number of unnecessary presentations at our emergency departments in acute hospitals in Western Queensland, especially those patients who need planned and structured primary care," Dr Geraghty said.

"To achieve this, we have ongoing, innovative projects that aim to give patients access to a more holistic offering of services at their local GP, which in turn reduces the need to go to an emergency department and receive care that might be better delivered at general practice level."

"The Clinical Council has been very active in the design of a project called 'Health Care Home' that establishes the general practice as a healthcare hub, linked to a range of services through new collaborations we're fostering at the WQPHN."

"The ultimate outcome will be that the patient receives the right care at the right time, while reducing the burden on an already strained public hospital system," Dr Geraghty said.

After getting a taste for rural medicine through a scholarship in the late 80s, Dr Geraghty has spent the past 30 years practicing medicine in Roma and raising her four children with her husband.

"Rosie brings the right balance of clinical smarts and on-the-ground experience in rural and remote medicine to know where the gaps are in the health system and how best to match that need," WQPHN Chair Dallas Leon said.

"She's been on the Council since its inception in 2016 and as such has been advising on a number of our projects in the areas of mental health, diabetes and workforce training."

“It’s always been a challenge to attract, retain and then train clinicians in the bush, and that’s where Rosie’s advocacy of medical workforce training programs and registrar placements will be key in her new role,” Mr Leon said.

Dr Geraghty is also a member of Rural Doctors Association of Queensland and a fellow of the Royal Australian College of GPs.

**Western Qld Primary Health Network (WQPHN) quick facts:**

- commissions (or funds) health services in Western Queensland
- covers almost one million square kilometres of Queensland, 55% of the state’s total land area
- aligns health investment with demonstrated population health needs
- uses health intelligence data to orientate health services efficiently and effectively
- ensures the right primary health care is delivered, at the right time by the right provider
- advised by GPs and other health professionals and consumers
- one of 31 PHNs across Australia established and funded by the Commonwealth Government

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